



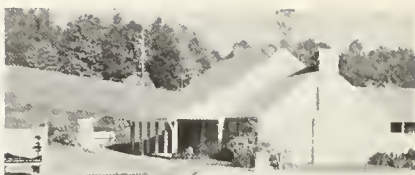
The Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, was a branch of the U. S. Mint from 1837 through 1913. It was established when North Carolina was the nation's largest gold producer. Now it houses a collection of sculpture and paintings, including a life-size portrait of Queen Charlotte. Museum is also a center for Charlotte concerts and other cultural events.



History of the Cherokee Indians is preserved by the Cherokee Historical Society in the recreated Oconoluftee Indian Village (above), the Cherokee Indian Museum, and the outdoor drama "Unto These Hills".



The Wachovia Museum in Old Salem has one of the largest collections of local antiquities in America. The collection is housed in the original Moravian Boys' School built in 1794 to which in 1937 a new structure was added.



The Museum of North Carolina Minerals on the Blue Ridge Parkway is a gem sample case. More than 300 minerals are found in the State, which was the leading gold producer in the U. S. during the first half of the 19th Century.



The New Bern Firemen's Museum, dedicated in 1957, preserves the rich history of the New Bern Department, chartered in 1845, as the Atlantic Co., and believed to be the oldest continuously active volunteer fire department in the nation. Featured are the Atlantic Steamer, purchased in 1879, and the Button Steamer, dating from 1884. Two hose wagons, holding all-time records, are also on exhibit. Admission to the Museum, near the Tryon Palace Restoration, is free.



O. Henry, the short story writer, was born in Greensboro in 1862. A replica of the Porter Drug Store, where he worked, with original furnishings is a feature of the Greensboro Historical Museum containing also prized Indian, colonial and revolutionary relics.